

Study #6 ADA Accessibility Assessment

November 28, 2001

1.0 Introduction/Background

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was passed in 1990. The act prohibits discrimination against the physically challenged, and ensures that they have equal access to public spaces. Such spaces include public recreation facilities. This study will assess the Study Area's compliance with ADA standards by examining its recreational facilities, and its facility design, construction and alteration standards.

2.0 Study Objective

The main objective of this study is to determine the current accessibility and future accessibility needs for people with disabilities to use project-related recreation facilities and to participate in the project's primary recreation activities, such as boating and camping. Compliance with the ADA is a key issue with regard to potential facility upgrades that may be considered for the proposed project's protection, mitigation, and enhancement measures (PMEs).

Researchers are aware that there is proposed legislation that may affect the study. The Department of Justice has information available regarding ADA proposals on the following website:

<http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/t2nprm94.htm>

3.0 Relationship to Relicensing/Need for the Study

This study is needed to meet the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC's) direction to ensure access to public facilities, particularly for those with physical disabilities. Section 2.7 of 18 CFR was amended in 1974 to include "consideration of the needs of the physically handicapped."

In 1991, the ADA's Guidelines for Buildings and Facilities (ADAAG) was published (Access Board 1991). The ADAAG specified guidelines for new construction or retrofitting construction features such as parking, entrances, access routes, restrooms, and showers. Since 1991, design guidelines specifically intended for outdoor recreation facilities have been developed in *Universal Access to Outdoor Recreation—A Design Guide* (PLAE 1993). These guidelines were developed in cooperation with the United States Forest Service (USFS) and other federal and state agencies. As part of this analysis, recreation researchers conducted a brief review of accessibility at all facilities within the Study Area. The purpose of this review was to provide additional details of recreation accessibility at developed facilities within the Study Area.

This study will address Issue Statement R1—adequacy of existing recreation facilities, opportunities, and access to accommodate current use and future demand, and the following specific recreation Issues: RE—1, 2 5-17, 19-39, 55, 56, 60, 64-83, 95, 96, 104 and 105.

4.0 Study Area

The Study Area includes Lake Oroville, the lands and waters within and adjacent to (1/4 mile) the FERC project boundary, and adjacent lands, facilities and areas with a clear project nexus. The following developed recreation areas and sites are included:

Campsites/Campgrounds

Bidwell Canyon Campground	Floating Campsites
Bloomer Cove Boat-In Campsite (BIC)	Lime Saddle Campground
Bloomer Knoll BIC	Lime Saddle Group Campground
Bloomer Point BIC	Loafer Creek Campground
Bloomer Group BIC	Loafer Creek Group Campground
Craig Saddle BIC	Loafer Creek Horse Campground
Foreman Creek BIC	Oroville Wildlife Area (Larkin Road Camping Area)
Goat Ranch BIC	Thermalito North Forebay Recreational Vehicle (RV) “en route” Campground

Day Use Areas (DUAs)

Lake Oroville Visitor Center	Saddle Dam DUA
Lime Saddle DUA	Thermalito North Forebay DUA
Bidwell Canyon DUA	Thermalito South Forebay DUA
Loafer Creek DUA	Thermalito Afterbay DUA (off Highway 162)
Oroville Dam Overlook Area	Thermalito Afterbay Wilbur Road DUA
Spillway DUA	Thermalito Afterbay Larkin Road DUA

Boat Launches

Lime Saddle Boat Launch Area (BLA)	Foreman Creek Car-Top BLR
Loafer Creek BLA	Dark Canyon Car-Top BLR
Bidwell Canyon BLA	Stringtown Car-Top BLR
Enterprise Boat Launch Ramp (BLR)	Vinton Gulch Car-Top BLR
Nelson Bar Car-Top BLR	

Other Recreational Facilities

Floating Restrooms	Aquatic Center
Brad P. Freeman Bicycle Trail	Fish Hatchery
Dan Beebe Equestrian Trail	Clay Pit State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA)
Diversion Pool	Model Aircraft Flying Area

5.0 General Approach

Several of the management agencies associated with the Study Area have conducted ADA assessment studies for site facilities. Personal communications with Ralph Torres of the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and Andy Atkinson of the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) suggest that there are internal agency studies by DWR and DFG that would be useful as a basis for this study. These studies will be acquired and reviewed in preparation for the fieldwork associated with this study. In particular, these studies will be reviewed to note past problem areas that can be evaluated for compliance. In addition to reviewing past agency studies, the Harza/EDAW team conducted a preliminary facilities review earlier this year, which included an ADA assessment.

Field notes about site conditions were compiled and sites were photographed as part of the preliminary review. Study #6—the ADA Accessibility Assessment, will expand on these previous studies in order to provide the most current facilities assessment. (Attachment A is a sample data collection form.)

6.0 Results and Product/Deliverables

Results

Results from this study will describe current accessibility and future accessibility needs for people with disabilities to use project-related recreation facilities and to participate in the project's primary recreation activities, such as boating and camping. Additionally, this study will provide information to support other studies, such as Study #2—Recreation Safety Assessment, #10—Recreation Facility and Condition Inventory, and Study #17—Recreation Needs Analysis. The findings of this study will also be used to make recommendations for facilities improvements. These findings will be presented in Study #17. Compliance with the ADA is a key issue with regard to potential facility upgrades that may be considered for the proposed project's PMEs.

Products/Deliverables

The following products will be developed for this study:

- Field survey form for assessing recreation facility compliance with ADA
- Draft Final Report

The report will contain an executive summary; an introduction with goals and objectives; methods; results; and a discussion.

7.0 Coordination and Implementation Strategy

Coordination with Other Resource Areas/Studies

This study will require coordination with Study #2—Recreation Safety Assessment, and Study #10—Recreation Facility and Condition Inventory.

Issues, Concerns, Comments Tracking, and/or Regulatory Compliance Requirements

The results of the study will address Issue Statement R1—adequacy of existing recreation facilities, opportunities, and access to accommodate current use and future demand, and the following specific recreation Issues: RE—1, 2 5-17, 19-39, 55, 56, 60, 64-83, 95, 96, 104 and 105.

8.0 Study Schedule

Data collection: September through December 2002.

Data analysis and report writing: January through February 2003.

Draft Final Report due: March 2003.

9.0 References

Access Board (U.S. Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board). 1991. American with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines for Buildings and Facilities (ADAAG). Washington, DC.

California Department of Fish and Game. October 4, 2001, Person communication between Andy Atkinson and EDAW, Inc. San Francisco, CA.

California Department of Water Resources. October 18, 2001. Personal communication between Ralph Torres and EDAW, Inc. San Francisco, CA.

PLAE, Inc. 1993. Universal Access to Outdoor Recreation: A Design Guide. Berkeley, CA.

Attachment A
Recreation Site Accessibility Assessment And Inventory Form

Site Name: _____ **Date:** _____
Site Operator: _____ **Researcher:** _____

A. Accessibility Topics	B. Notes
Parking: Total # =	
Accessible # =	
Location of Stalls =	
Toilet and Shower Facilities Total # =	
Accessible # =	
Major Site Feature: Campground Total # =	PRELIMINARY SAMPLE
Accessible # =	
Major Site Feature: Day Use/Picnic Area Total # =	
Accessible # =	
Major Site Feature: Boat Launch Area Total # =	
Accessible # =	
Major Site Feature: Other	
Drinking Water:	
Other Site Features: Signs, Trash Cans, Etc.	